

## **Socioeconomic Assessment and Monitoring of Coral reefs in Agatti Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, India**

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### **The general objectives of why you did the socioeconomic monitoring:**

Determine value/significance of the resources  
Assess management effectiveness/ community benefits and impacts of management strategies  
Adapt management strategies to local context  
Identify threats and pressures  
Facilitate stakeholder participation  
Establish baseline of socioeconomic information

### **Topics addressed in your socioeconomic monitoring**

Resource use conflicts  
Economic valuation (market or non-market)  
Stakeholder participation in management  
Tourism issues  
Fisheries issues  
Traditional uses  
Land-based threats  
Historic/cultural resources  
Poverty alleviation  
Local perceptions of management

### **Management question(s) you were addressing:**

1. We looked at Resource governance – Customary Traditions in Reef and lagoon Management V/s Government Laws.
2. Stakeholder issues – How the islanders interact with the reef, resource dependencies.
3. And the role of the stakeholders in management if any?

### **Socioeconomic indicators you assessed:**

- Island Profile – use of local terminology for describing the island and coral reef ecosystem.
- Reef Use patterns, Traditional Fishing, Gleaning, commercial fishing, tourism.
- Traditional knowledge
- Resource Governance
- Island demography
- Community Services
- Market Attributes extractive and non extractive
- Non Market/ Non Use value.

### **Methods you used (e.g. household interviews, key informant interviews, etc):**

- Observation, Transect, FGD, Semi structured Interviews at the Household and level and with key informants, questionnaire survey.
- Visualisation Techniques Resource mapping, seasonal calendar, Ranking

**Total cost of the study (optional):** US \$ 10,000 annually

**Time it took to conduct:** 4 months for the Socio economic assessment and 6 months of reef related activity daily monitoring. We are continuing to collect reef related activity monitoring on a daily basis.

**Number of people on the study team:** 8

**How the coastal managers and other stakeholders were engaged in planning, implementation and reporting results:**

This project is focused on raising citizen's awareness in coral reef conservation and management. In the initial stage a Socio-economic assessment and training workshop was held at Agatti Island. Representatives from the Department of Fisheries, Science and Technology, and the Environment, LCRMN, NGO's and Educated unemployed Youth attended this workshop.

The group from Agatti Island took some initiative, formed a team and designed the reef related activity monitoring. The Socio Economic monitoring of reef related activities has been completed for May 2003-June2004 and is continuing for one more year with support from CORDIO.

**\*The most important results, particularly unexpected findings:**

**Key learnings 2003-2004:**

1. Target reef fisheries started in January 2004.
2. Coral boulder, sand and shingle (coral debris) continue, despite Ministry of environment notifications banning collection. This is because the Islanders are not convinced that shingle collection harms coral growth.
3. Notifications banning the collection and use of reef resources such as associated fish sp and mollusks has virtually criminalized the reef depended subsistence fishers and gleaners.
4. Some people have started to break up coral boulders within the shallow lagoon and near reef – converting it to debris, so that it appears that they are collecting debris and not coral boulders.
5. A Dive center has started operating in Agatti and 9 dive sites are being popularized.

**How the socioeconomic information has been used to improve coastal management. Please be specific. This information is particularly important because it will be used to demonstrate to potential users and donor organizations the benefits of conduct socioeconomic monitoring.**

So far we have prepared reports on the Socio-economic data collected and made them available to the Lakshadweep Administration and various concerned departments to make use of for management planning.

This being a citizen's initiative one has to work harder on being made visible. We feel it might generate more awareness if the key learning's are disseminated to the Lakshadweep public using the local media.

**Lead contact for further information (name, role in the socioeconomic monitoring, organization, contact e-mail & phone):**

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**Website for the project and/or socioeconomic study:** [Nil](#)